

## **What I Would Tell America's Founding Fathers**

By Richard Snokes

It is a time to reflect on those leaders with powdered wigs and buckled shoes that I read and heard about all my life in social studies and in general. These men risked their lives to fight for a country where people are not judged by race or gender, but by who we are as individuals. If someone cannot openly say their opinion, then the heart of the nation has stopped.

To the Founders of the United States, I thank you for ensuring the freedom and protection that allows our nation and government to adapt and change through reform, healthy debate and active participation in government.

Several months ago, a story of Chen Guangcheng – a blind human rights supporter – shocked billions of people with what happened to him. Chen escaped his home on April 22<sup>nd</sup> after being under house arrest for “damaging property and organizing a mob to disturb traffic.” He instinctively went for refuge at a U.S. embassy in Beijing. Why was this? He knew that the U.S. is a supporter of human rights around the globe.

Even though our Founding Fathers did not intend for the future U.S. citizens to protect non-Americans, they unknowingly laid the foundation of human rights globally.

Yet, to the Founders, I still ask, “Was this your vision and thoughts for America?”

These heroes did not cower away when faced with the task of uniting 13 colonies; they unwaveringly gave up their lives for the common good of our blessed country today.

Thomas Payne said, “that even when the flame of liberty ceases to shine, the ashes can never expire.” May this slogan light up America if, God forbid, darkness and despair tear our home apart. So thank you Founding Fathers for blessing us with a country you have started that we have here today!